



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 146

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2000

No. 85

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, You are never reluctant to bless us with exactly what we need for each day's challenges and opportunities. Sometimes we are stingy receivers who find it difficult to open our tight-fisted grip on circumstances and receive the blessing that You have prepared. You know our needs before we ask You, but You wait to bless us until we ask for help. We come to You now honestly to confess our needs. Lord, we need Your inspiration for our thinking, Your love for our emotions, Your guidance for our wills, and Your strength for our bodies. We have learned that true peace and lasting serenity results from knowing that You have an abundant supply of resources to help us meet any trying situation, difficult person, or disturbing complexity, and so we say with the psalmist, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits."—Psalm 68:19. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SLADE GORTON, a Senator from the State of Washington, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I have been asked to announce that we will resume consideration of H.R. 4762. Under the previous order, there will be closing remarks on the bill with a vote on final passage to occur at approximately 9:40 a.m. and following that vote, a vote on or in relation to the Frist amendment, which is the Frist amendment to the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill, will occur.

I have been asked to announce that it is the leader's intention to finish this bill by midafternoon and then to proceed to the Interior appropriations bill. I note a smile by our distinguished Presiding Officer. He has the Interior bill. But that is what the script says. We will be pushing as hard as we can to accomplish that and get that done. Our distinguished leader was in a persevering, strong mood last night, and I assume he will be this morning as well. We want people who have amendments to come to the floor. We will work out a schedule and work out time agreements so we can meet that demanding schedule.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 4762, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4762) to amend the Internal Revenue Code for 1986 to require 527 organizations to disclose their political activities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 7

minutes for closing remarks, with 5 minutes of that time to be under the control of the Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I yield 2 minutes of my 5 minutes to the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. FEINGOLD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, despite the claims in the press by some opponents of this measure, this bill is fair and evenhanded. It affects groups on both sides of the political spectrum. It is not aimed at any particular group or players in the elections. It is aimed at getting rid of secrecy. It is not an attempt to silence anyone. It is an attempt to give the American people information. They are entitled to have this information about the groups who flood the airwaves with negative ads during an election campaign.

I thank all my colleagues who supported the McCain-Feingold-Lieberman amendment on the Department of Defense bill. They can be proud of what they did. With that vote, they have started in motion a process that has brought us to this day, when we will quickly pass and send to the President for his signature a good, fair, bipartisan bill that does the right thing for the American people.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I believe in full disclosure of who is funding political campaigns. The public has a right to know who is paying for the political advertisements and direct mail that they see. While I think this bill may not go far enough in requiring disclosure of these groups, it is a first step and that is why I support H.R. 4762.

H.R. 4762 requires disclosure for political organizations which are tax exempt under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. 527 organizations which directly advocate the election or defeat

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S6041